DAREDEVIL • LUKE CAGE • JESSICA JONES • IRON FIST

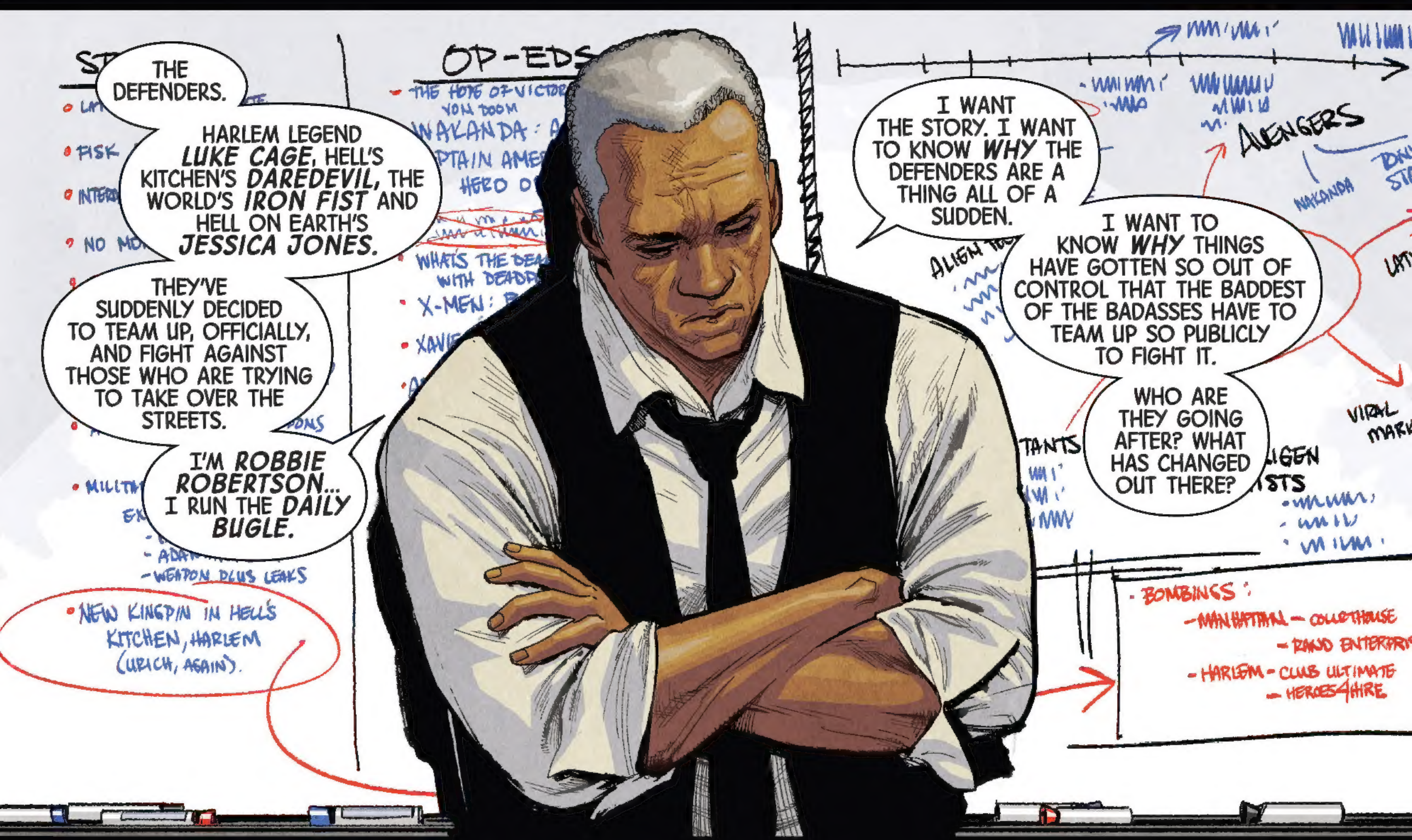
THE DEFENDERS™

MARVEL

#4

BENDIS
MARQUEZ
PONSOR

THE DEFENDERS



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THEN.
NICE.
POTENCY?
THANK YOU, MISTER DIAMONDBACK.
THEY TOLD ME TO TELL YOU 94%.
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?
YES, SIR.
CLICK

HOW MUCH DOES THIS GO FOR ON THE STREET?
$25 A PACKET, MISS BLACK CAT, MA'AM. TWO PILLS PER PACK.
WHAT'S THE TEST NUMBER?
94.
94?! THAT'S CLOCKED?
JUST TELLING YOU WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD, MA'AM.
THANK YOU FOR SHOWING ME THIS.
I'M KEEPING THIS ONE.
OF COURSE.
PAY HIM ON THE WAY OUT.
YOU WERE NEVER HERE.
HE CALLS IT "DIAMOND."
IT'S JUST I.G.H.
HE'S A GENIUS.
WHICH USED TO BE CALLED M.G.H.
CAN YOU FIND OUT HOW GOOD THIS IS?
I DON'T DO DAT STUFF.
I KNOW, HAMMERHEAD.
BUT DO A GIRL A FAVOR AND FIND SOMEONE WHO DOES WHO CAN REPORT BACK WITHOUT SOUNDING LIKE THEY'RE ON DRUGS.

Y'R BETTER DEN DAT, BIG GUY.
ROMAN.

HOW YOU DOIN'?
I'M GOOD, MY MAN.
YA INTO TRYIN' THIS OUT FOR ME?
FOR YOU?

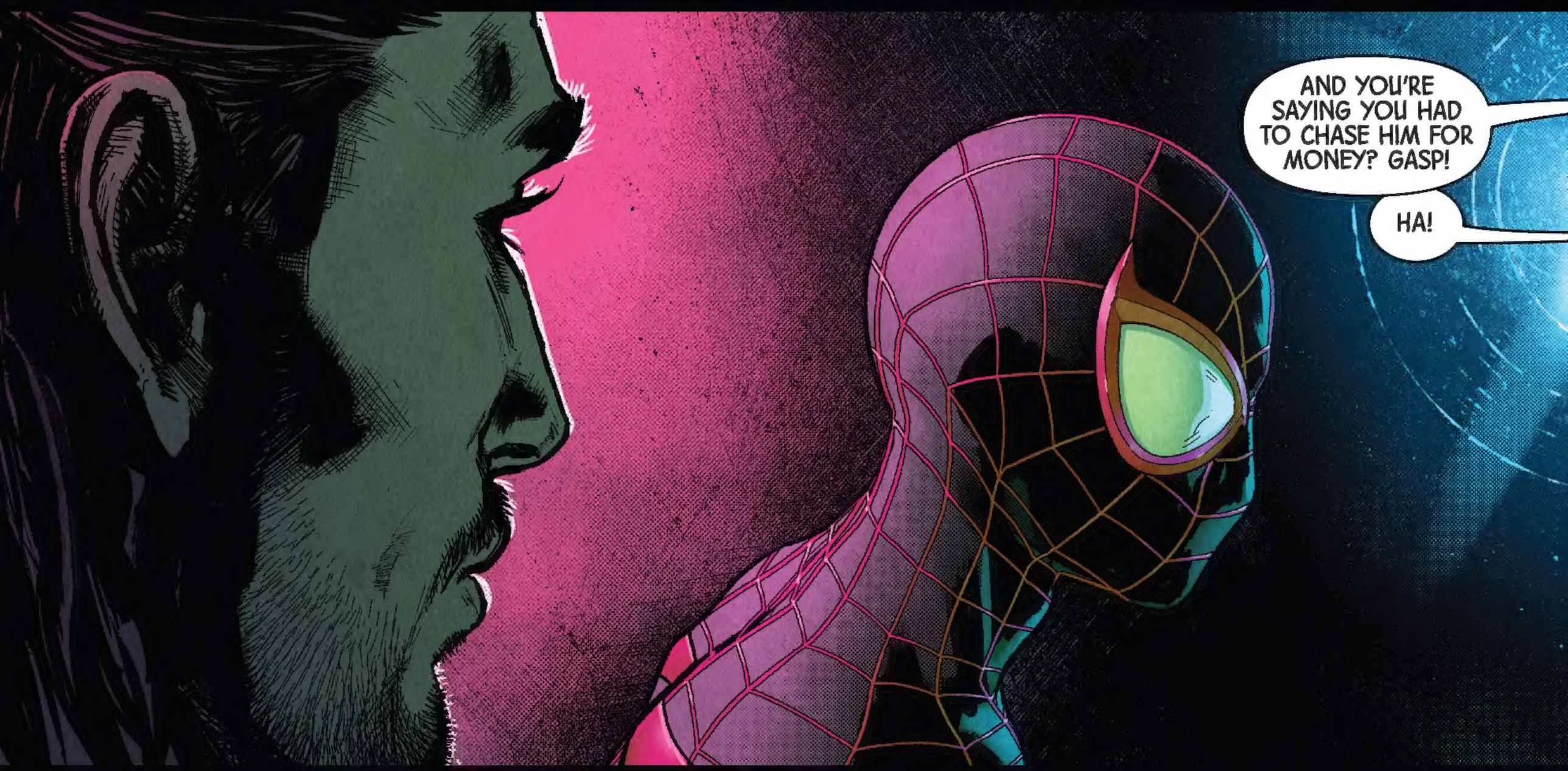
ON THE CLOCK.
GO HOME, CHILL, TAKE IT, REPORT BACK. IF YOU WANT.
IF I WANT?
YOU EARNED IT.
YOU'RE THE BEST.

HEY, HAMMER, TELL THEM WHAT YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT THOSE DAMN SUPER HEROES.
AW, YEAH...

AND THAT'S THE THING...
THE COSTUM PEOPLE ALWA COME AT US THI THEY'RE GON SHUT IT DOW BUT...
You up? I have a surprise.

I'm tired, baby.
...THAT'S ALWAYS WI IT ESCALATES.
I got the hookup.
THEY THINK THEY MAKE THINGS BETTER BUT THEY ALWAYS MAKE IT WORSE.
SAY IT!

LIKE TAKE TONIGHT, I GOTTA DRAG MY SORRY BUTT ACROSS TOWN TO SHAKE DOWN THE VULTURE'S BROTHER.
YOU KNOW HIM?
THE VULTURE'S BROTHER?

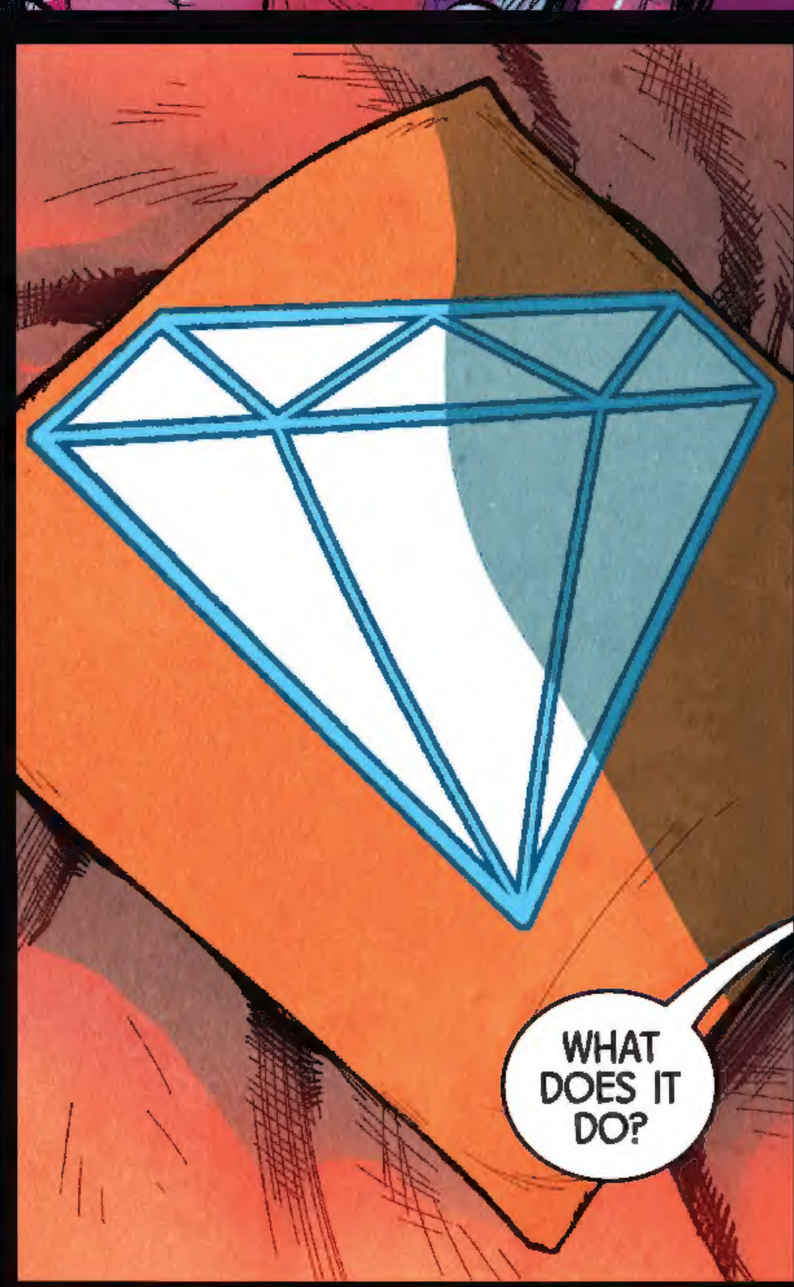

AND YOU'RE SAYING YOU HAD TO CHASE HIM FOR MONEY? GASP!
HA!

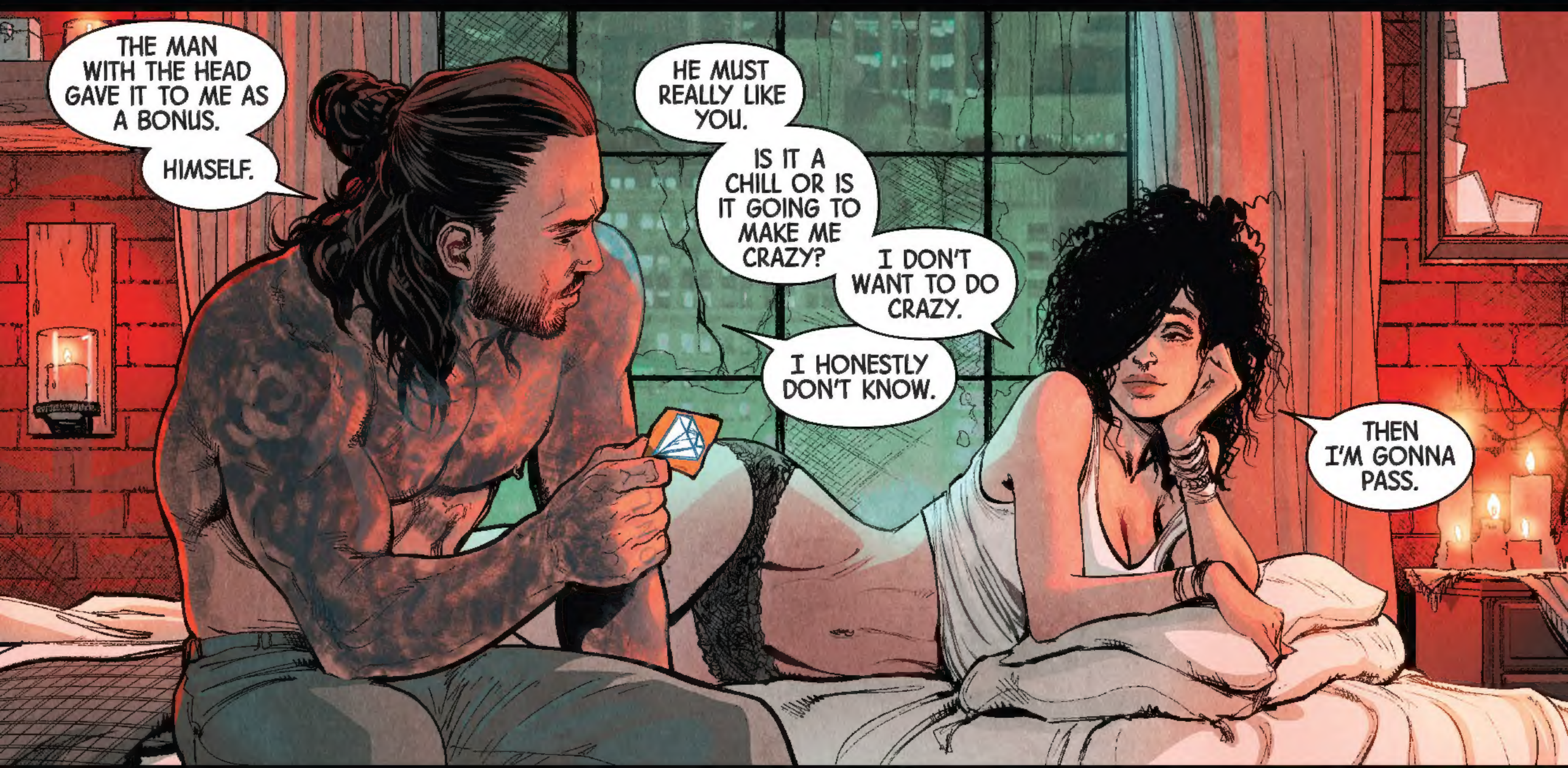
I SAID TO HIM: YOU MAKE ME DRAG MY BIG OL' HEAD *ALL THE WAY* DOWN HERE, YOU *BETTER* HAVE THE MONEY YOU OWE, AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN...
...I TURN MY HEAD, AND THIS TEENYBOPPER...

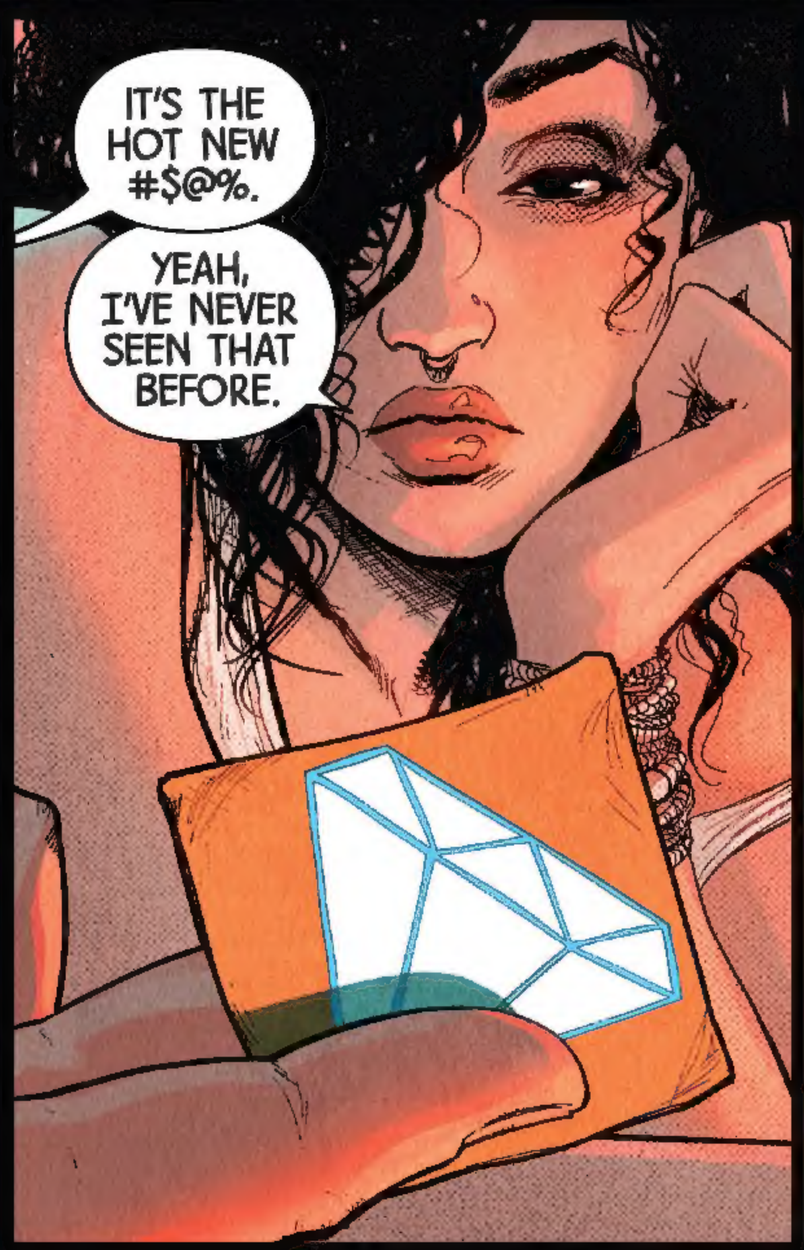
YOU PUT A FRIEND OF MINE IN THE HOSPITAL TONIGHT.

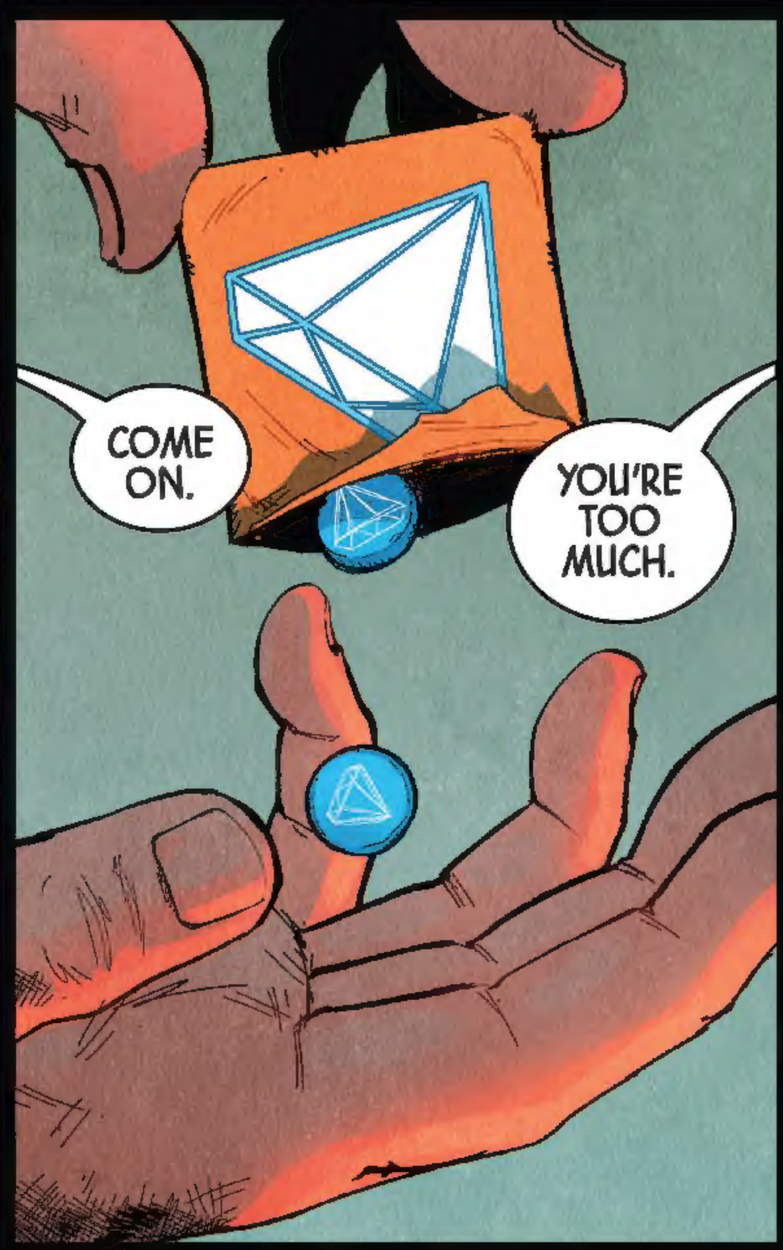
OF COURSE SHE WAS A FRIEND OF *YOURS.*
WHAT? I'M SUPPOSED TO JUST LET HER TAKE A SHOT AT ME?

BAD ENOUGH I HAVE TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE THINKING *YOU* TOSSED ME IN THE PEN LAST MONTH!

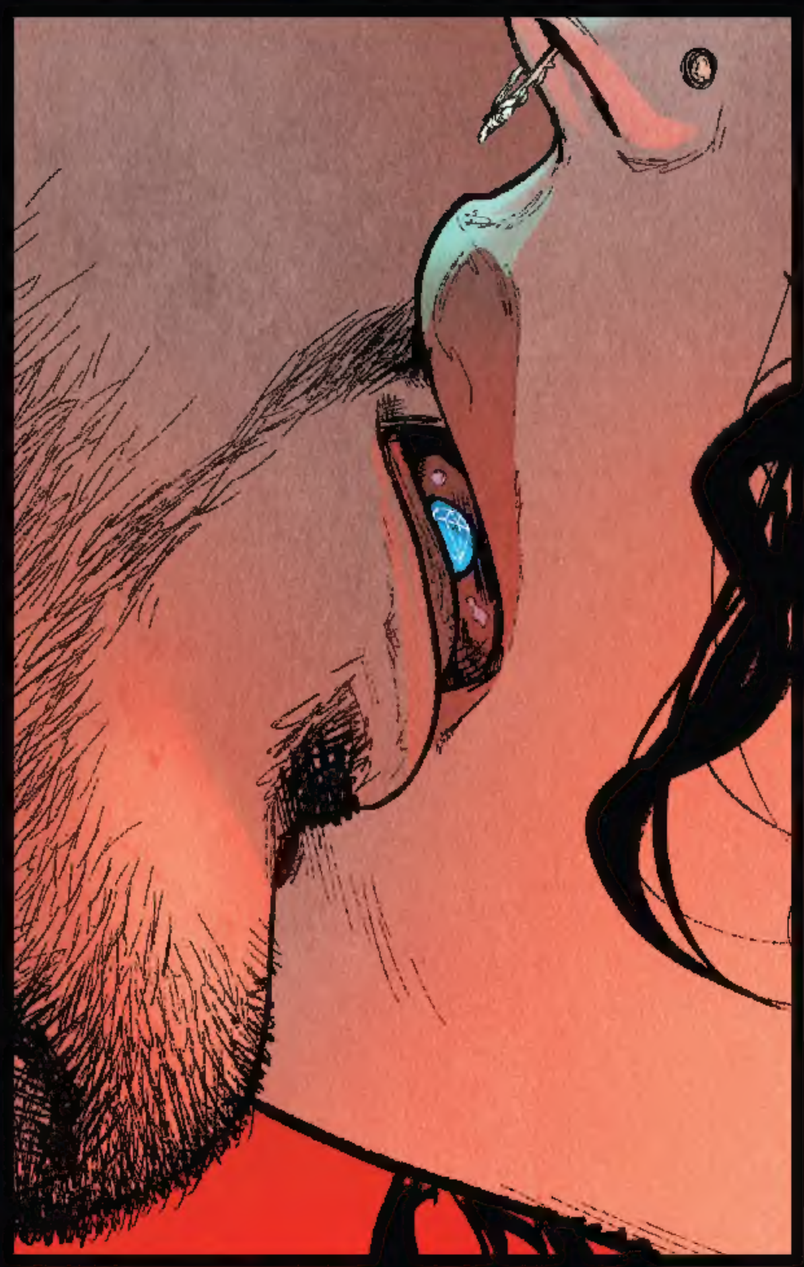

WHAT DOES IT DO?


THE MAN WITH THE HEAD GAVE IT TO ME AS A BONUS.
HIMSELF.
HE MUST REALLY LIKE YOU.
IS IT A CHILL OR IS IT GOING TO MAKE ME CRAZY?
I DON'T WANT TO DO CRAZY.
I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW.
THEN I'M GONNA PASS.

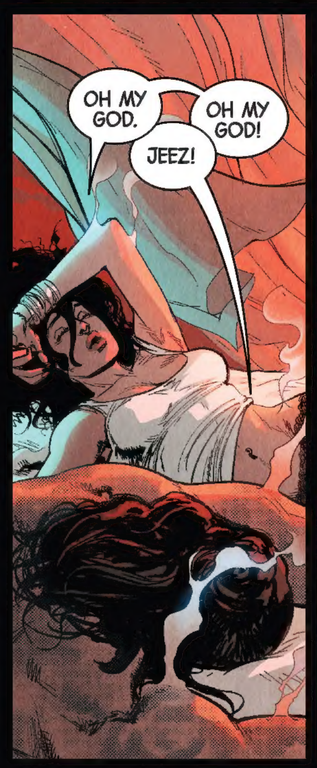

IT'S THE HOT NEW #$@%.
YEAH, I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT BEFORE.


COME ON.
YOU'RE TOO MUCH.

TOGETHER.



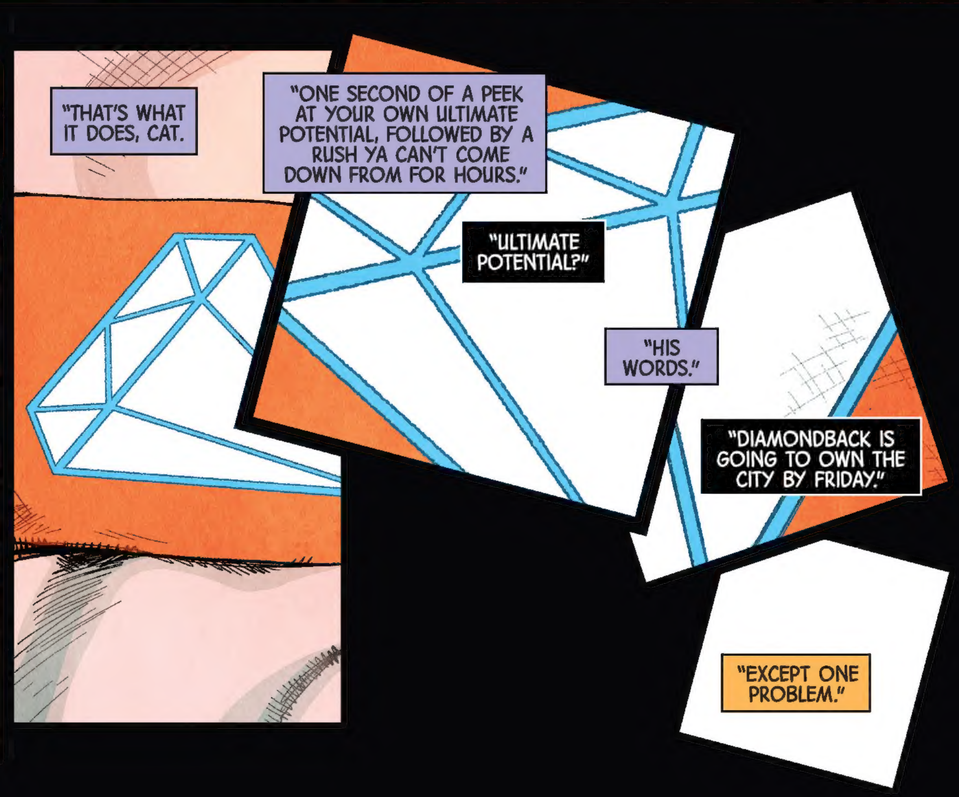
DO YOU FEEL--?


OH MY GOD.
OH MY GOD!
JEEZ!

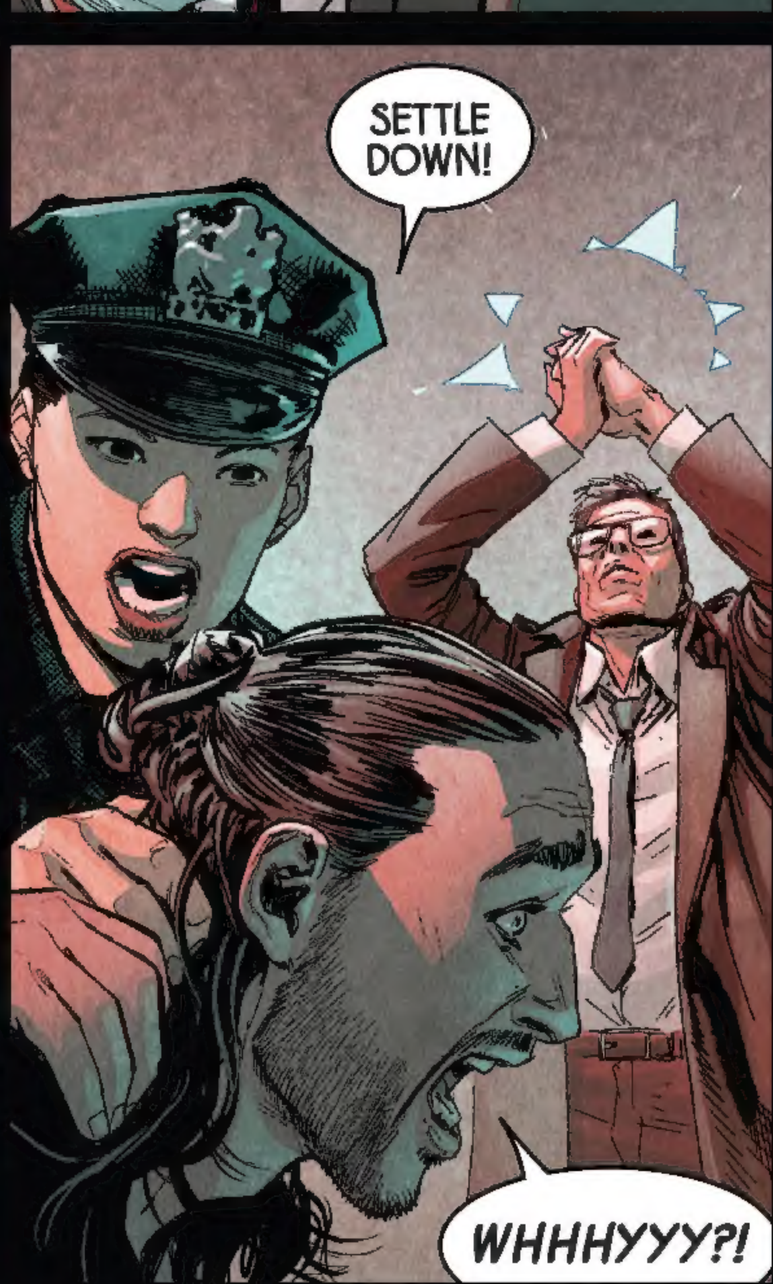
IT--IT'S LIKE--!

OH MY GOD!

MM!

"THAT'S WHAT IT DOES?"

"THAT'S WHAT IT DOES, CAT.
"ONE SECOND OF A PEEK AT YOUR OWN ULTIMATE POTENTIAL, FOLLOWED BY A RUSH YA CAN'T COME DOWN FROM FOR HOURS."
"ULTIMATE POTENTIAL?"
"HIS WORDS."
"DIAMONDBACK IS GOING TO OWN THE CITY BY FRIDAY."
"EXCEPT ONE PROBLEM."

I DON'T THINK IT MIXES WELL WITH OTHER STREET DRUGS.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT, DETECTIVE QUAID?
TOO SOON, URICH.

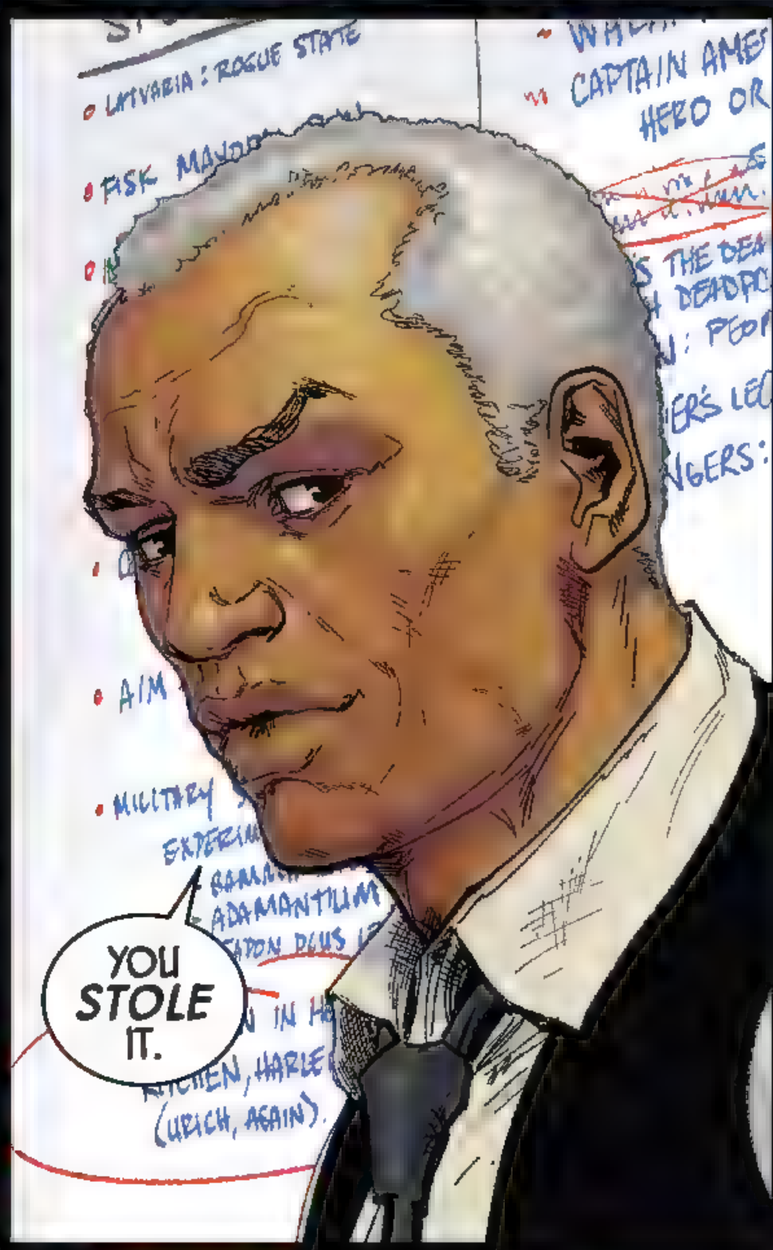


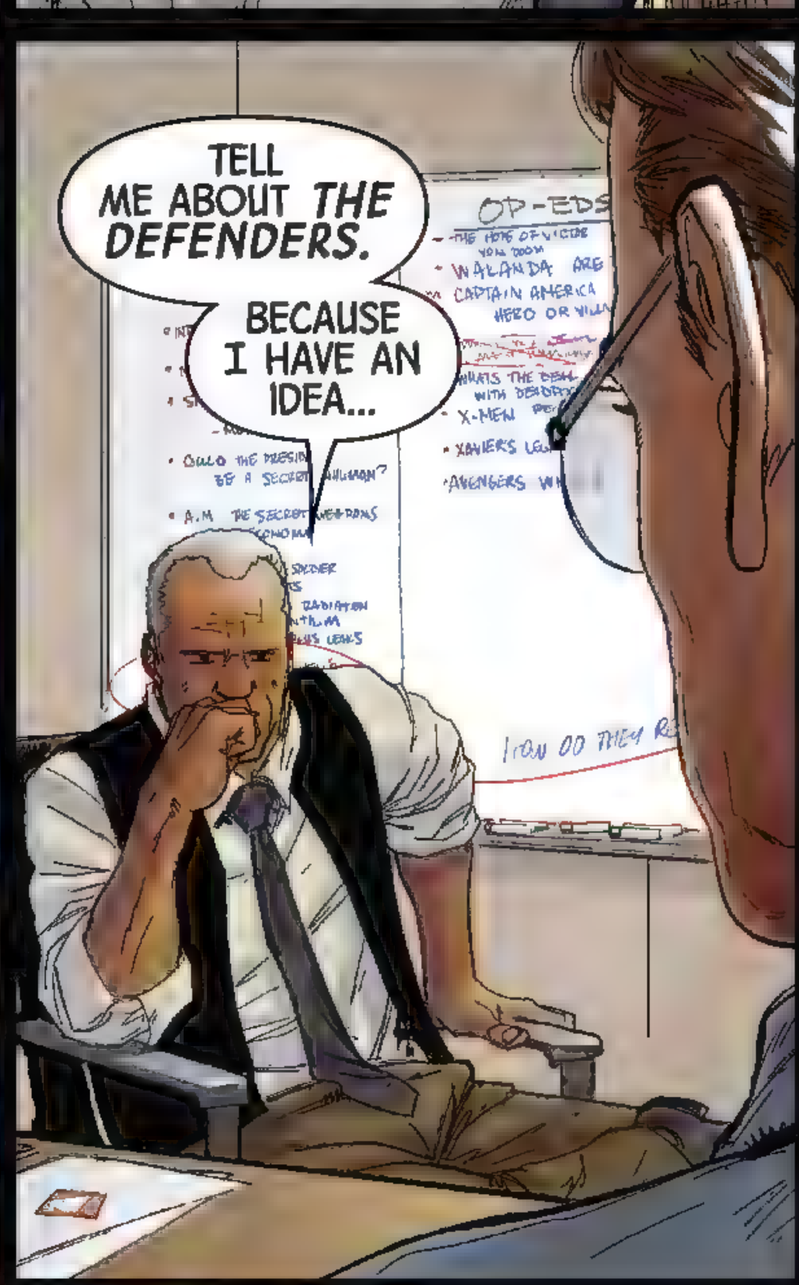
...AND HIS NAME IS *DIAMONDBACK.*

TAKING THE CITY WITH A DESIGNER DRUG...LEAVING A HANDFUL OF HIGH-PROFILE DEATHS IN ITS WAKE.

THIS IS *GOOD,* URICH.

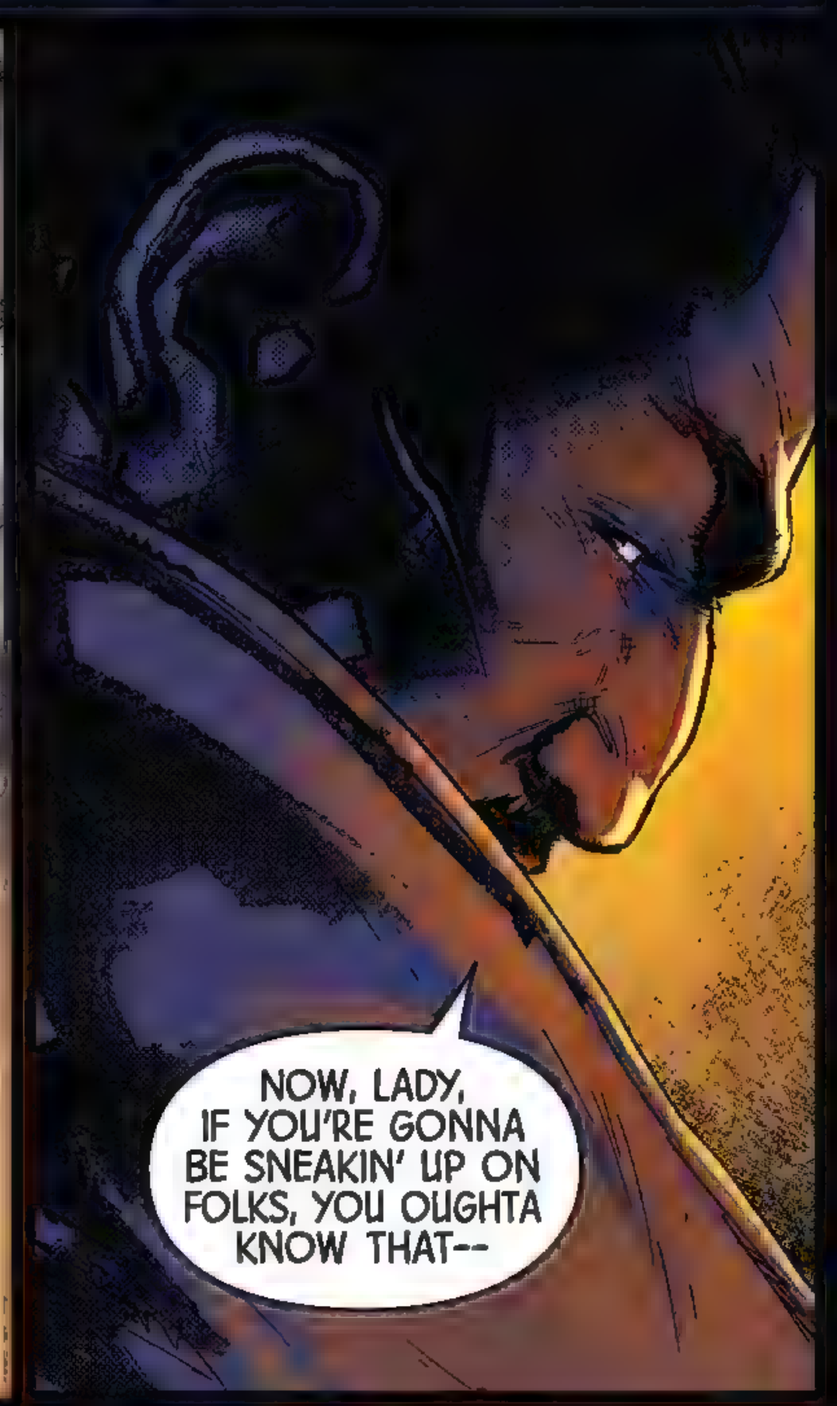
YOUR NOTES ON THIS ARE SOLID?





NOW.

CRRRAAACKKK



SPACKK
WHOA...
SMASHH

NOW I SEE...
NOW I KNOW WHY MY MAN CAGE DIGS YOU...

YOUR MAN?
SORRY TO BREAK IT TO YOU, SPARKY, BUT HE--LIKE I'M SURE YOUR PARENTS BEFORE HIM--HATES YOU.

DISRESPECTFUL MOUTH.

YEAH? YOU SHOULD SEE--

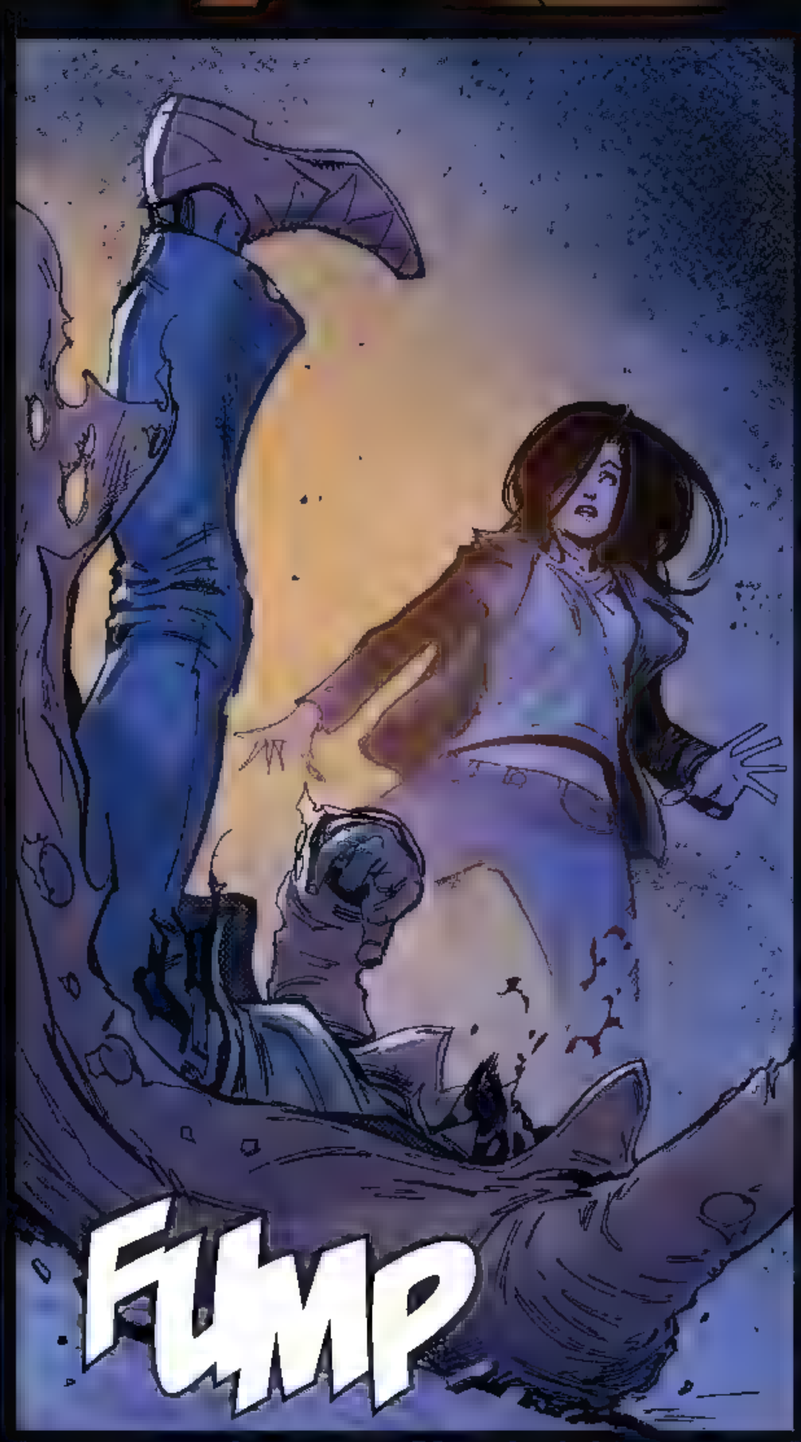
--WHAT *THE REST* OF ME THINKS OF YOU!

W-HAFUUUMP

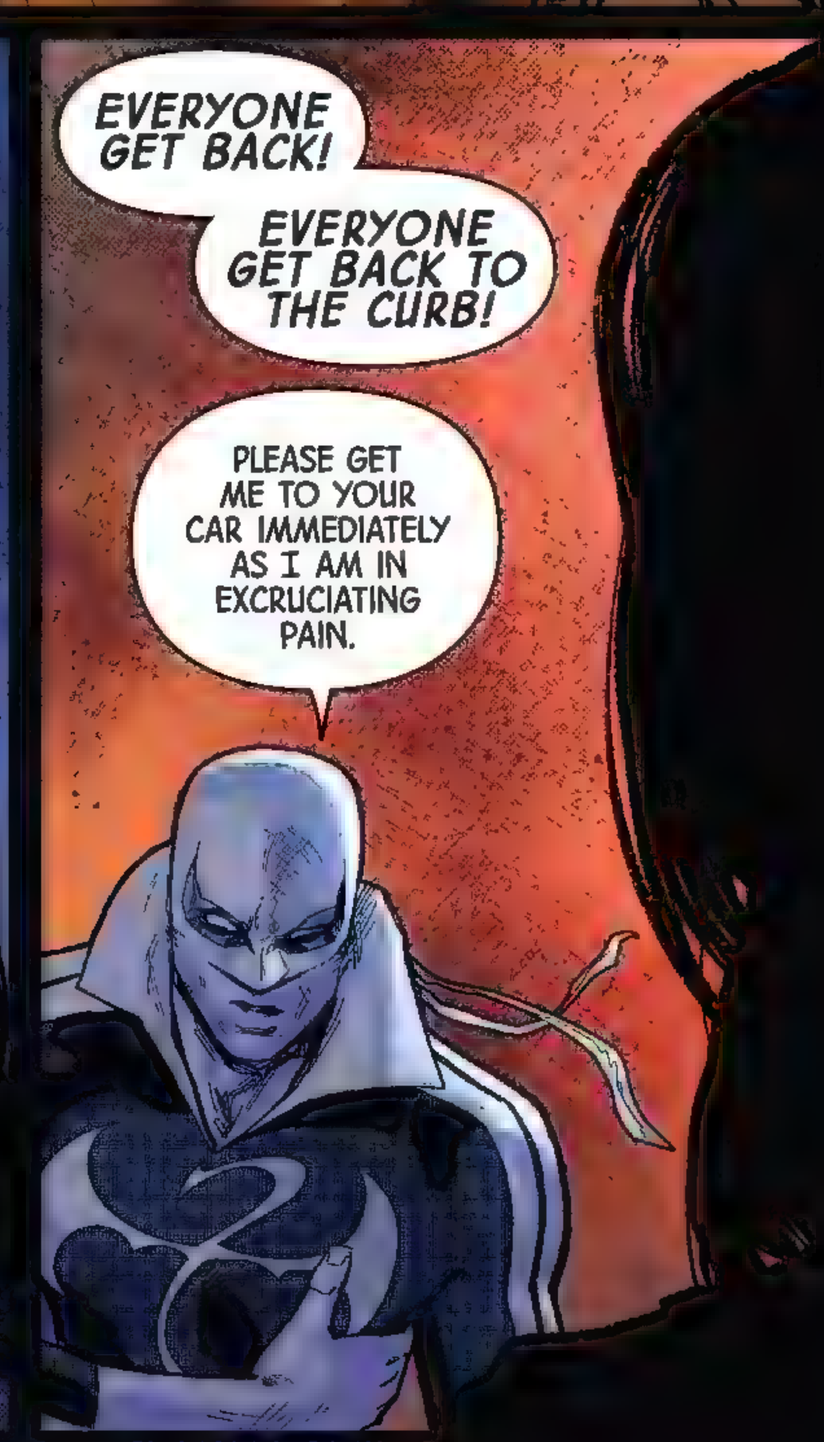
JEEZ!
SMAASH
WELL... GREAT.
NOW I'LL HAVE GLASS IN MY HAIR FOR A WEEK.
I WARNED YOU THE DAY I MET YOU, HOT STUFF...
...NEW RULES.
HOW ARE YOU BACK FROM THE DEAD?
WAIT, NEVER MIND.

BOOM
WHY "NEVER"-- AGH!
SMASHH
OH, GOOD, DANNY IS OKAY!
OH, GREAT, HE JUST TOTALED WHAT WAS LEFT OF MY CAR.
YOU ARE A TOUGH *HOMBRE*, IRON FIST.
I REALLY THOUGHT I MADE MY STREET CRED ON YOU JUST THEN.
WELL, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
...IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THINKING IS YOUR STRONG SUIT.
HA!

SMACCKK


FUMP

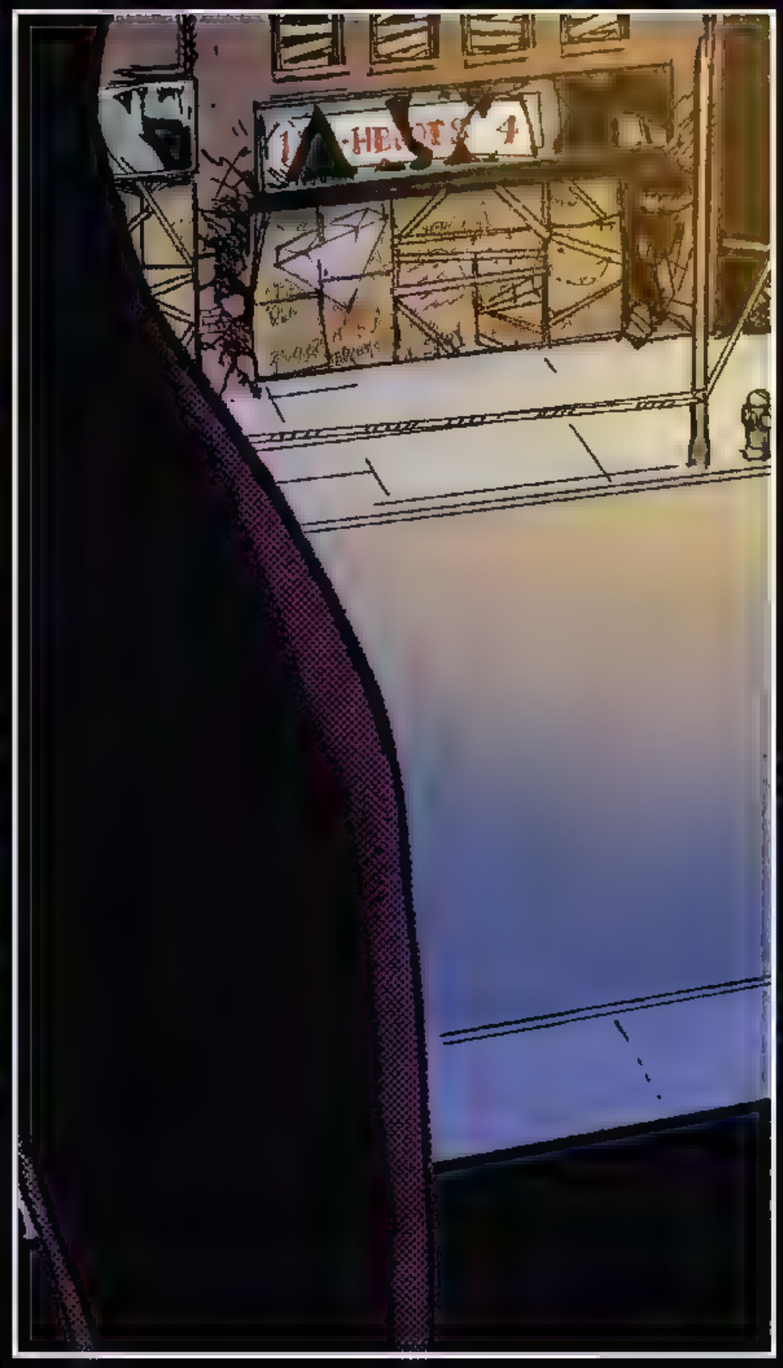
I'M VERY GLAD YOU'RE NOT DEAD, MR. RAND.
THAT WAS SCARY.

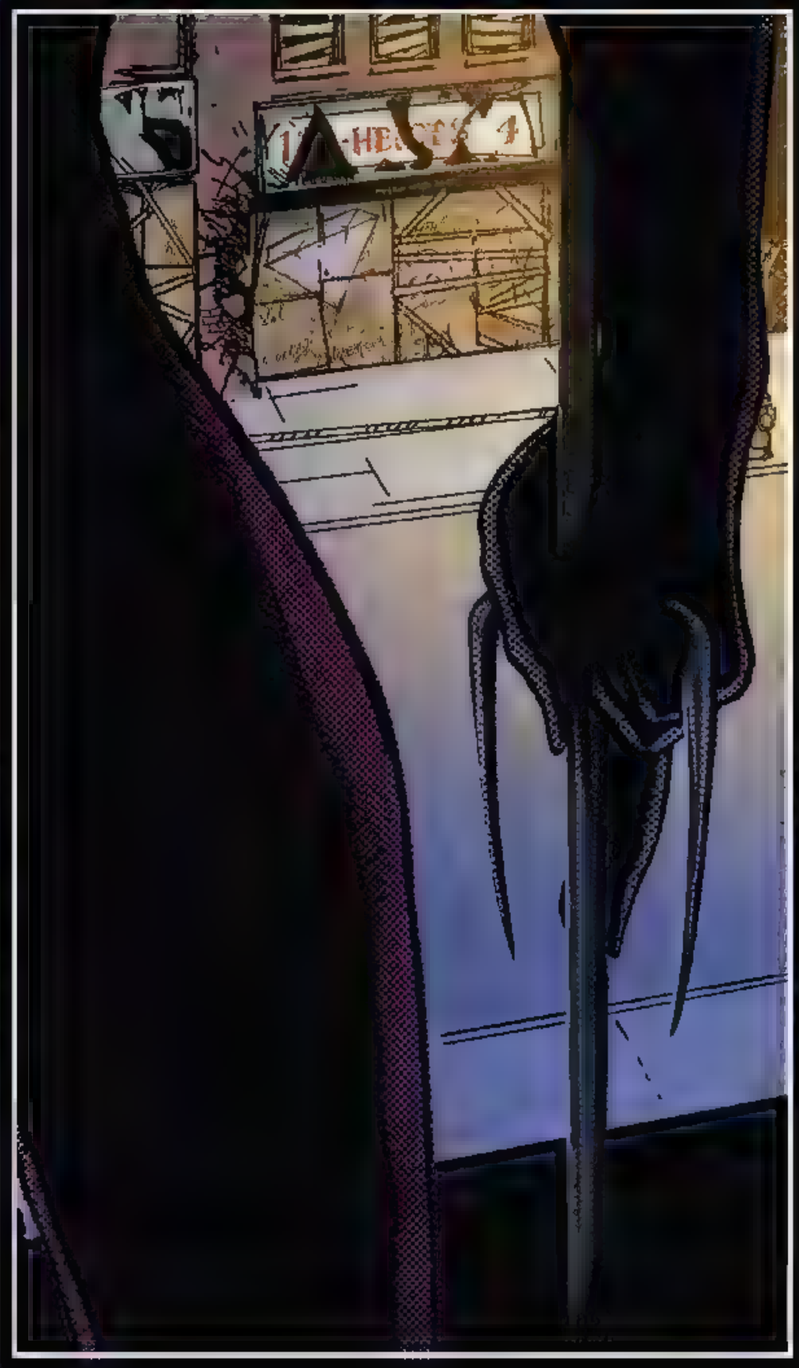

EVERYONE GET BACK!
EVERYONE GET BACK TO THE CURB!
PLEASE GET ME TO YOUR CAR IMMEDIATELY AS I AM IN EXCRUCIATING PAIN.

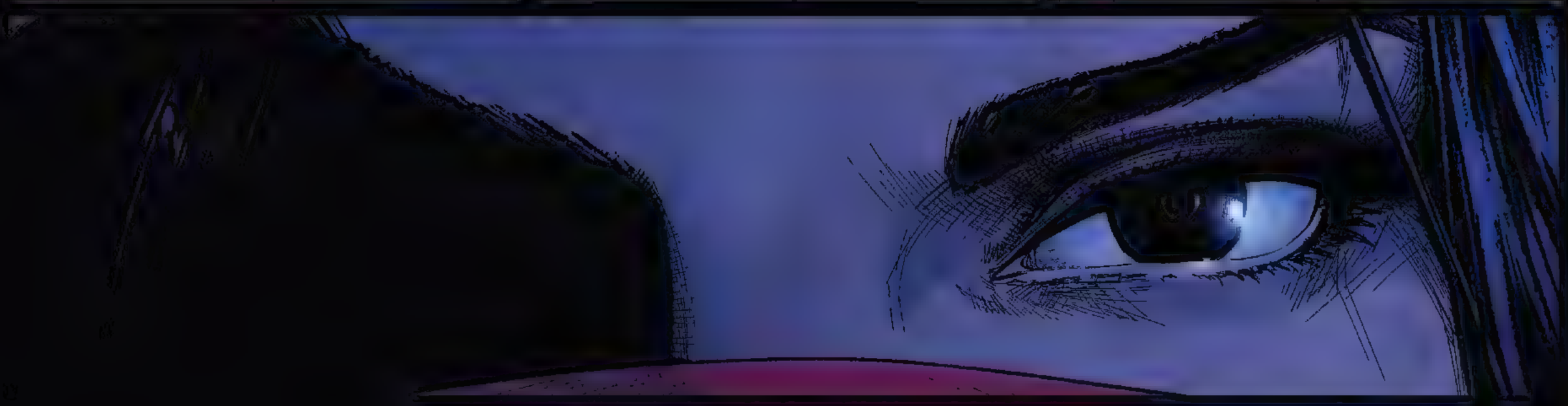
GET BACK BEHIND THIS LINE!
IS YOUR BACK BROKEN?
I JUST NEED SOME TIME.
PLEASE GET ME OUT OF HERE.
EXCUSE ME!
IS THIS YOUR HANDIWORK?
YES, SIR.
MY NAME IS JESSICA JONES--I AM A LICENSED PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.
MY FRIEND DANIEL RAND OF THE RAND CORPORATION, WHO IS KNOWN EVERYWHERE AS THE IRON FIST, AND I WERE SITTING IN THAT PARKED CAR RIGHT OVER THERE WHEN THIS GENTLEMAN...
HIS NAME IS WILLIS STRYKER. HE CALLS HIMSELF DIAMONDBACK.
HE HAS POWERS, SO BE CAREFUL, AND HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INFLUX OF NEW DRUGS INTO THE COMMUNITY...
...BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME.
HE ATTACKED US.
THANKS TO THESE LOVELY PEOPLE, THERE IS FOOTAGE OF THIS ATTACK FROM JUST ABOUT EVERY POSSIBLE ANGLE YOU CAN THINK OF.
I'M SURE IF YOU CHECK HIS POCKETS THERE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE TO PUT HIM IN A HARDCORE THROW-HIM-DOWN-THE-HOLE-AND-DON'T-LET-HIM-OUT-TO-SEE-THE-LIGHT-OF-DAY PRISON.
MAYBE THERE'S ENOUGH TO PUT HIM AND HIS ORGANIZATION AWAY FOR GOOD.
I'M GOING TO GO TAKE CARE OF MY FRIEND.
IF YOU NEED ME, CALL ME, OR...
...CALL MY LAWYER, MATTHEW MURDOCK!
I NEED A STATEMENT!
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN WRITING ALL THAT DOWN, THEN!

HEROES 4
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

HEY, IT'S ME.
YOU OKAY? JESSICA? WHEN? WHERE?
I HAVE THE BABY.
I'M ON MY WAY.







WILLIS STRYKER, A.K.A. DIAMONDBACK.
HE'S BEING TRANSFERRED BEFORE PROCESSING?
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAYS HE'S TOO HIGH-RISK TO BE HELD IN COUNTY LOCKUP.
PLUS, HE FAKED HIS OWN DEATH, SO THE PAPERWORK ON THIS IS GOING TO BE INSANE.

YOU'RE LUCKY, STRYKER--WE HAD AN EMERGENCY TRANSFER ALREADY HAPPENING.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT THREE HOURS FOR THE NEXT ONE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Hello, DEFENDERS readers! Welcome to the letters page! I'm Alanna Smith, assistant editor of the prestigious publication you hold in your hands. What does an assistant editor do, you ask? Well, answer letters, for one thing! (And cry over print deadlines, for another thing--but that is not relevant to the page you're looking at unless my tears are somehow splattered on your printed page. Whoops!)

Anyway, this is the spot where we answer your questions! To be honest with you, I am VERY sleepy and haven't thought of a sweet name for this page yet, so if you've got suggestions, be sure to email them to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM marked "Okay to Print." You can also send ordinary letters there, if you're the letter-sending type, and we'll answer them here, on this mysterious, unnamed page! We'll also run tweets that use the hashtags #DefendersComic and #OkToPrint, so start tweeting!

That's enough out of me–bring on the letters!

Hi, Marvel!

I was just really, really happy reading DEFENDERS #1! Such a fun read from cover to cover! Big congratulations to Mr. Bendis, David and Justin! I've read all the Bendis books, and I know this book is extra special because of Mr. Bendis' "babies," Daredevil, Luke and Jessica! I'm really excited to see what you guys have in store for Danny Rand! To Mr. David Marquez, FANTASTIC JOB on the art! This will stand the test of time! Can't wait to read more!

Jiggy Cruz

You've read all the Bendis books, Jiggy? When do you have time to sleep?! Glad you're reading THIS Bendis book (who needs sleep, anyway?) and hope it lives up to your expectations!

Ever since I knew about the Defenders Netflix series coming out, I was excited to see whether a comic book about it was already here–but, to my disappointment, there wasn't one. Then I realized that it was actually in the works! There was tons of promotional art on Instagram, and it got me more excited for the release. I waited constantly until, one fine day, I saw the upcoming comics on Marvel's official YouTube channel!

I'm glad to say that, after finally reading this comic, it's amazing. I love the fact that Luke Cage is (I think) in the center of this story, and he's doing it all for Jessica! It's like a sequel to THE PULSE or THE NEW AVENGERS (which I loved). Though I'm wondering if their baby will make an appearance in this series. Thanks!

From Shirin A.
Jakarta, Indonesia

Haha, you're a marketing team's dream, Shirin! I sent this over to the people who work on our Instagram and YouTube promotions, and they just put on sunglasses and rolled away on Segways, firing finger guns at me and hissing "marketing in action...marketing...in...action..."
So I think you made them very happy. And don't worry, Luke Cage will continue to be front and center (he's Brian's FAVORITE), and I'm sure Danielle the Littlest Defender will show up at some point.

Yo, DEFENDERS crew,

Man...after one issue, I can already tell this isn't going to be your ordinary comic book. I know Marvel is serious about a book when they put a team together like Brian Michael Bendis, David Marquez and Justin Ponsor. And I feel like DEFENDERS is right in your collective wheelhouse. Love the nuance–Jess drinking a beer, Danny drinking a water and Daredevil fighting a bar. All is as it should be. Haha!

Great job, everyone. The Defenders hype is real.

Ben Falkenstein
Cleveland, OH

Brian, David and Justin are like peanut butter and chocolate–how did we survive before we thought to combine them? Glad you're digging it, Ben!

To BMB and the rest,

I hadn't planned on writing in to this issue, but I had to as soon as I read it. The art, the style–everything just seemed to fall together, and this is just the first issue. I liked the Dazzler Easter egg, we don't see enough of her anymore. Also, I'm a big fan of Bendis' work, and how could anyone make fun of a person with a man crush on Luke Cage? I've loved him since THE MIGHTY AVENGERS. The Pulse-style autobiography thing was a nice touch at the end. Jessica worked with Urich when she was pregnant, right? Can't wait to see where this series goes.

All the way in bonny Scotland,
Michael Burns

I think it's in Brian's contract that every book he works on has to have at least one Dazzler Easter egg. And Luke wasn't always the crazy cool badass that we know today–for a while he was just a wacky dude in a silky yellow shirt and a silver tiara. So while we can take him seriously now, it was an uphill battle to get him there! I hope, someday, that Big Bertha follows in his footsteps. (You think I'm joking but I AM NOT. Lend that girl some Luke Cage magic! She is a star waiting to be born!)

I wanted to let Brian Michael Bendis, David Marquez and Justin Ponsor know that their work on this book is phenomenal on all levels. This is by far my favorite book available right now and I'm really looking forward to issue #3! I do want to point out that nothing has brought a smile to my face while reading a comic recently like issue #2 did with the brief appearance of Blade. It's been almost a decade since this character has had a series of his own. This fact, in my opinion, is unacceptable. Let the powers that be at Marvel know that this is one fan that's hoping for that to change soon! If not, at least consider incorporating Blade more into future issues of THE DEFENDERS? Keep up the great work guys!

Adam Fardy

Hey, Adam! If you're looking for an immediate Blade fix, he appeared recently in a few issues of GWENPOOL, and he's going to be in SECRET EMPIRE: BRAVE NEW WORLD #5. As for other appearances, well...you'll have to wait and see!

Dear DEFENDERS crew,

I am a HUGE Marvel fan and try not to miss out on a single thing, so when I found out that Daredevil, Iron Fist, Luke Cage and Jessica Jones were teaming up in the Netflix show, I was excited–and when I read the first issues of DEFENDERS, I got even more excited about the comic than the show. I am familiar with the work you guys did in the MILES MORALES comics and I hope I will love the DEFENDERS comics as much as those. Great work.

Sincerely,
Asher Tewodros

I was going to make a coy remark about how you may see Miles swinging through these pages sooner than you think, and then I realized that I was talking about THIS issue and felt very silly. So that's where I'm at, Asher.

Hi, Marvel!

Just wanted to say, as a big fan from the last 17 years (currently 21 years old), thanks so much for bringing a new series of DEFENDERS back again. Feels like forever since the last HEROES FOR HIRE, and this DEFENDERS ongoing series definitely seems to be an awesome one. Funny story, thanks to these characters specifically, I met one of the most–if not THE most–awesome girl ever, Emy! We started talking about the DAREDEVIL series and she currently has the very first issue of the latest POWER MAN AND IRON FIST, though her favorite one is Daredevil. I will keep her up-to-date with the DEFENDERS comic. Wondering if we will ever get to see a Punisher fight against Iron Fist? That will be interesting–hopefully Danny would win? Who knows! Anyway, thanks for all the awesome content you guys create.

Sincerely,
Ivo Monge

Hey, Ivo! It's awesome that you made a friend through characters who punch a lot of people. That's the way to do it, if you ask me! And I hope we get to see a Punisher vs. Iron Fist fight, though I'm not sure who I'd bet on. Usually it's a bad idea to bring a fist to a gunfight...but if you're Iron Fist, maybe you can get away with it?

That's all we've got space for this month! Keep sending in your tweets and letters and we'll keep running them. Come back next month to see what happens when you put Diamondback and the Punisher together in a tiny van...

-Honorary Defender Alanna Smith

NEXT!

@mjperljam
DEFENDERS #1 was a perfect first issue. Bendis and Marquez are the only team for these street-level heroes. #Defenderscomic

@frxnkcxstle
#Defenderscomic this issue absolutely exceeded my expections! I LOVE it! The interview between Ben and Luke was such a nice touch

@Skyward_Link
Love #JessicaJones #Daredevil & #Daredevil kicking a** is so cool! & the almost indestructible #LukeCage #Defenderscomic

@jaro61
Brilliant start to DEFENDERS. Looking forward to seeing what this great creative team has got in store #Defenderscomic

@ayyitsphilzzy
The interview of Luke Cage was really interesting, the images were too good can't wait for the next issue #Defenderscomic

DEFENDERS #5

ALL ON SALE THIS MONTH!

LUKE CAGE #4

JESSICA JONES #11

DAREDEVIL #25

IRON FIST #6

We want to hear from you! Send your letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM marked "OKAY TO PRINT," or tweet us using the hashtags #DefendersComic and #OKtoprint for a chance to see your tweet printed in future issues!

ZONE